

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE RICE INSTITUTE NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS UNIT PALMER MEMORIAL CHURCH, 10 A.M., FEBRUARY 28, 1945

I

PROGRAM

LT. COMMANDER C. M. ALVORD, U.S.N. (RET.), Presiding
MR. WALTER WELSCHOFF, *Organist*
Organ Prelude

Processional

Posting of the Colors NROTC Color Guard

The Star Spangled Banner. By Entire Assembly

Invocation. The Reverend J. F. Lane

Introduction of the Speaker . . Lt. Comdr. C. M. Alvord
U.S.N. (Ret.)

Address Lt. Col. Frank C. Clemens

Presentation of Awards { Mr. W. T. Hudson
Capt. E. G. Leonardon
Major E. L. Lorehn

Presentation of Commissions. . . Comdr. V. F. Rathbun
U.S.N. (Ret.)

Oath of Office . . . Comdr. V. F. Rathbun, U.S.N. (Ret.)

Anchors Aweigh By Entire Assembly

Benediction The Reverend Stanley L. Smith

Retire the Colors. NROTC Color Guard and Bugle Corps

Recessional

II

ADDRESS BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK C. CLEMENS

PRESIDENT Lovett, *Members of the Rice Faculty, Commander Rathbun, Officers and Men of the Naval R.O.T.C., Gentlemen of the Military Affairs Committee, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

It pleases me greatly to be allowed a part in these commissioning exercises today, for while my service in military affairs has always been with the Infantry, the good old doughboys have always had a great admiration for the Navy; and since my son Jack, graduating from Rice in '42, joined the Navy, and is now serving in the South Pacific, there is in addition to that admiration a sincere affection and deep interest; so you of this class are much more to me than just men.

This is a momentous occasion in your lives, for upon receiving your commission you will become a part of the greatest Navy the world has ever known, and, even more, have the greatest privilege any man anywhere can ever have: to serve your country. The gateway of opportunity swings wide before you, pathways to national service of a type which entails discipline, self-control, loyalty, and a resolution to see every job through to a successful completion.

You have the privilege, and the longer you serve the more you will appreciate that privilege, of giving and receiving the military salute, something *not* for civilians. It is rather in-

teresting how tradition says the salute originated. Away back in the early days of the Roman Empire slaves were branded by having a hole burned with a red hot iron through the palm of the right hand; so free men, when approaching each other, held the palm of the right hand so all might see they were not branded slaves. Then, in the days of jousts and tournaments, when knights rode in the lanes, the winner, approaching the queen to be awarded his laurel wreath, raised his right hand to shade his eyes from the always dazzling beauty of his queen. So from the Roman freeman and the British knight has passed down through the ages what has now become our military salute: a sign of greeting or recognition from one man to another only of the military service.

And our flag—the most beautiful something in this great world. The thirteen red and white stripes recall to us the history of that long, bitter eight-year struggle in which the thirteen original colonies fought side by side for freedom. These thirteen stripes have never been changed and never will be. Red proclaims the Courage which men of our race have always shown: the courage which will inspire you as an officer to face danger, perform your duty, forgetting yourself. White for Equality and Liberty: the right to worship, to go and to do as you please, so long as you do not injure others. Blue for Loyalty: it's the true blue; it tells the story of men and women who have been loyal to their country through suffering and hardship—no sacrifice too great, even of their lives. And upon this field of blue, each representing one of our great states, we placed the stars from heaven, the stars that shine forever. Our Star Spangled Banner.

Usually the English language contains all the words necessary to express an idea, but for the French phrase, *esprit de corps*, we have no equivalent. *Esprit de corps* is largely supplied by the leader; and if you, the leader, cannot inspire

your men with a spirit of victory you have on hand a force to feed, and not one with which to fight.

Today our nation, which we cherish as the greatest and most enlightened in world history, is engaged in its mightiest war. Never before in our history have we dedicated such stupendous totals in men, materials, and money to the establishment of a new era in world history. In this vast effort you men who are graduating into the Navy today will have a definite, practical, working part. You will be called to function in offices of trust and responsibility. It is your task to command greater or smaller groups engaged on the seven seas in prosecuting the war for world freedom. In the accomplishment of this trust your paths may lead to heroes' deaths, but you have the complete confidence of your fellow Americans that, be the task great or small, and regardless of the ultimate outcome, you men of this graduating class are determined to pursue your destiny with mind geared to a single standard—the performance of duty faithfully and well done.

You will have the inspiration that comes from service in a mighty fleet whose glorious records have been expanded during this war by outstanding deeds, triumphs, and sacrifices—deeds that will live forever in America's history.

The officers of our Navy who have preceded you to duty have blazed a trail that each of you may follow with absolute assurance that history records no more gallant record.

You will always remember and be inspired by the words of such officers as Captain James Lawrence of the U.S.S. *Chesapeake*, who, as he was carried below mortally wounded, with his dying breath said: "Don't give up the ship"; and John Paul Jones, who, in the battle between the *Bonhomme Richard* and the *Serapis*, with his ship badly damaged and in a sinking condition, being called upon to surrender, replied: "I have not yet begun to fight"—and he won that

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battle. And in this present war are too many brave deeds to quote all, but one Commander, Howard Gilmore, skipper of the U.S. Submarine *Growler*, wounded and on deck, unable to move himself, and to save the minutes necessary to get him below, commanded: "Take her down"; his shipmates did, and he died that they might live. Such examples of unselfishness and bravery will inspire you just as they have others before you.

And today you reach the parting of the ways. The peaceful, even if strenuous, activities of the schoolroom are to be replaced with the grim realities of naval service afloat and ashore. To your hands we commit the charge: Be faithful, be true to the traditions of our great Navy; deal fairly with the individuals whose activities, even lives, will be committed to your charge; be courageous, be living demonstrations of the ideal American naval officer, than whom there is no more splendid man.

Blue of the Seven Seas,
Gold of God's great sun:
Let these our colors be,
'Til all of time be done.

By ocean's shore we learn
Navy's stern call—
Faith, Courage, Service, Truth,
And Honor, Honor over all.

Men of the Navy—well done; fair weather, good sailing!
You will always be in our hearts and prayers, and may the
great and good God above be with you—always.

FRANK C. CLEMENS

III

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

I. THE HUDSON AWARD

THIS award was given to the student of the commissioning class attaining the highest mark in Naval Science subjects, including Aptitude for the Service. This award, a \$25 War Bond, was donated by Mr. W. T. Hudson, member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, and was awarded to Ensign James Albert Hand, U.S.N.R.

II. THE LEONARDON AWARD

This award was given to the student of the commissioning class attaining the highest mark in Aptitude for the Service. The award, a \$25 War Bond, was donated by Captain E. G. Leonardon, member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, and was awarded to Ensign John Stevens Van De Mark, U.S.N.R.

III. THE LOREHN AWARD

This award was given to the student who attained the highest average score as a member of the rifle team during the year. The award, a \$25 War Bond, was donated by Major E. L. Lorehn, member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, and was awarded to Second Lieutenant Charles Irving Kaplan, U.S.M.C.R.

IV

MEMBERS OF THE UNIT RECEIVING COMMISSIONS

Andrew, John Gray
Atkinson, Gene
Bolton, Mebane Graham
Bresnahan, James Joseph, Jr.
Brink, Eugene Kent
Brown, Robert Alexander
Bryan, Glenn Etsel
Buckner, Donald Arthur
Bunker, James Richard
Chandler, William Carroll
Cooper, Marlyn Lee
Davidson, William Reed
Dryden, Woodson Ernest
Grining, George Edward
Hand, James Albert
Head, Albert Lee, Jr.
Hogan, Edward Leslie, Jr.
Holmes, Wilbur Garner, Jr.
Hopkins, Thomas, III
Kaplan, Charles Irving
Kapner, Charles Maurice, Jr.
Lindsay, James David Griffith
Little, Robert Albright

Mahan, Jack, Jr.
Matthews, Udell
McCall, Henry Cox, Jr.
McIver, Joseph Allen
McKallip, John Curtis
McNair, William Terrell, Jr.
Meyers, Charles Jarvis
Morris, Harold Glenn
Morrow, Nathan Chipman
Nelson, Innes Armistead
Nichols, Hamilton James, Jr.
Noonan, Grover Cleveland, Jr.
Peebles, Henry Fillmore, Jr.
Plyer, Alfred Hutchinson, Jr.
Redgrave, DeWitt Clinton, III
Ringland, Adrian Alton, Jr.
Roach, Thomas Gates
Roessler, Richard Wagner, Jr.
Roof, Willie Reese
Scherer, Daniel Jules
Van De Mark, John Stevens
Way, William James
Wolcott, William Wollie

